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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 9, 2004

**FRESNO MAN INDICTED FOR MAKING FALSE WEAPONS REPORT**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and Federal Bureau of Investigation's Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Keith Slotter announced today that GARRETT FLOYD HOLMES, 33, of Fresno, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Fresno for making a false report to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) regarding the presence of military-type weapons in rural Tulare County. The indictment charges HOLMES with making a false statement concerning a matter within the jurisdiction of the FBI, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

According to court records, HOLMES contacted the Fresno office of the FBI on July 28, 2004 and reported that he had visited an area in rural Tulare County where he observed a crate of military-type weapons which he described as "missiles," along with a military assault weapon and several diagrams of commercial aircraft, including a "747." Based on this information, the FBI, together with local law enforcement agencies, undertook an immediate investigation, and prepared to search the property in question. On July 30, 2004, HOLMES finally admitted that he had lied about the presence of the items described above.

Mr. Scott stated, "Falsely claiming to have uncovered a terrorist plot in today's environment is the modern-day equivalent of shouting 'fire' in a crowded theater. There could have been tremendous repercussions had authorities moved forward with their enforcement plans based on Mr. Holmes' information. To their credit, the FBI pursued a measured response and then determined the report to be false. Tracking down false leads diverts critical time and resources from the Department's top priority of keeping our nation safe. As a result of his actions, Mr. Holmes today stands indicted for a federal felony crime."

"Terrorism is a very serious matter, particularly during the current period of heightened concern across this country. As we rigorously investigate those who seek to harm our nation, we also aggressively investigate individuals who choose to exploit this mission by providing law enforcement with intentionally false and misleading information solely for personal gain, and we believe this is the basis for Mr. Holmes' actions," said SAC Slotter.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Carl M. Faller, who is prosecuting the case, upon conviction, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is an accusation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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